

WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS

FOR NORTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN COUNTIES

April 2003



State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development
Local Workforce Planning Section

Strong recovery remains elusive

In March, North Central Wisconsin's unemployment rate remained higher than usual. Although the gap between current rates and the typical rates had appeared to narrow slightly in January, that gap appears to have returned to levels consistent with the softness of the last year. (See graph to right.)

Adams County's unemployment rate has followed typical seasonal patterns and remained very close to typical levels. The construction sector and the leisure and hospitality sector there began to awaken from winter rest. Jobs lost in the information, professional, business & other services sector have not been recouped.

While January and February unemployment rates were above trend in **Forest County**, March saw a return to trend levels. Most sectors remained very stable from February to March, with the exception of a slight increase in government employment.

Unemployment rates in **Langlade County** remained well above typical levels, as they have been over the last 12 months. The trade sector (retail and wholesale) added jobs in March, it stands in the same place now as last March. Over the last 12 months, jobs have been added in education and health services as well as information, professional, business & other services. Manufacturing has fewer jobs now than a year ago.

Last summer, unemployment rates seemed to be dropping closer to trend levels in **Lincoln County**, but in February and March, they climbed again, breaking the 10 percent barrier for the first time since 1991. Comparing this March to last March, the largest losses have been in manufacturing and in transportation, warehousing and utilities. The latter sector's March-to-April drop last year was unusually large and has not yet been recovered. The former sector, (manufacturing), has fewer jobs now than at any time since January 2001 and the manufacturing jobs lost from February to March account for most of the manufacturing job loss between this March and last March.

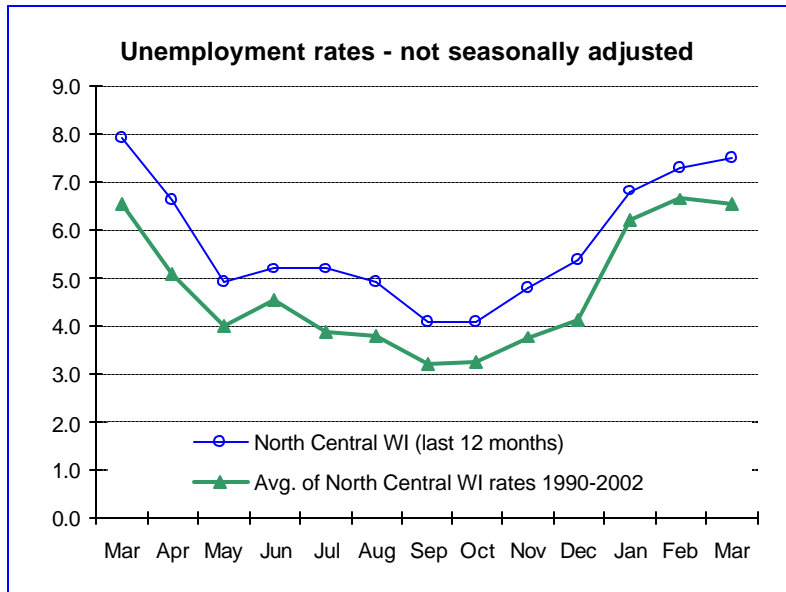
Although unemployment rates in **Marathon County** did not increase quite as quickly as usual in January and February, the March rate returned to an above-trend level more consistent with the last 12 months. Unlike most other North Central Wisconsin counties, Marathon has 300 more manufacturing jobs this March than it had last March and 100 of them were

added in the last month. In proportional terms, this 1-month change is modest (about half a percent), but any growth in manufacturing is welcome news. Growth in education and health services is not terribly surprising, but growth in professional and business services does appear to buck a national trend.

Oneida County's unemployment rate remained well above typical levels. June 2002 was the last month manufacturing did not lose jobs. Last spring's manufacturing gains were short-lived. The leisure and hospitality sector appears to be maintaining its job growth.

Portage County's job gains (mainly in government and information, professional, business & other services) were barely enough to keep up

with labor force growth, so its unemployment rate did not fall, as it typically would. Labor force growth and job losses in leisure and hospitality pushed **Vilas County's** unemployment rate higher than at any point in the 1990s. March job losses in information, professional, business & other services continued a trend in place since last August. **Wood County** reported job growth in every sector, but not enough to lower its unemployment rate. Education and health services continue to lead.



Assistance sought from multi - location employers

Employers with operations in worksites in more than one Wisconsin county who do not report the number of workers at each location are requested to complete a Multiple Worksite Report (MWR). The MWR is sent to employers during the first quarter by the **Bureau of Workforce Information** and supplement the data that employers provide on the Unemployment Insurance Quarterly Contribution Report.

Similar to the unemployment report, the employment and wage data collected in this survey is confidential and used only for statistical and analytical studies, Unemployment Insurance Program purposes, and the Dislocated Worker Program. Employers benefit because data (like that in the table below) can be used to assist business planners with selecting new sites, economic forecasting, and wage analysis. For more information, or assistance on the MWR, contact **Deborah Holt at (608) 266-5321**

Industry employment estimates - not seasonally adjusted

	Wisconsin				Adams		Forest		Langlade		Lincoln	
	Mar 2003	1-month change	1-year change	Mar 2003	1-month change	1-year change	Mar 2003	1-month change	Mar 2003	1-month change	Mar 2003	1-month change
Total jobs, all industries*	2,741,800	9,700	5,900	4,000	80	130	3,200	20	3,700	70	11,800	-60
Const., min'g & nat. resources	105,500	800	-5,800	190	30	40	40	0	130	10	410	20
Manufacturing	514,900	-1,200	-12,400	450	0	40	310	0	470	-10	3,400	-120
Trade (wholesale & retail)	422,300	200	-2,200	520	10	40	310	-10	660	20	1,690	0
Transport, Wrhsing, Utilities	104,600	900	1,700	140	0	0	180	0	180	0	370	10
Financial activities	152,900	200	1,200	90	0	0	90	0	180	0	760	0
Education & health services	363,600	1,200	10,600	450	0	0	340	0	300	0	960	0
Leisure & hospitality	226,600	3,000	4,100	600	30	50	140	10	250	0	1,060	10
Info, prof., & other services	425,200	2,900	8,700	320	10	-80	120	0	300	10	970	20
Government	426,200	1,700	0	1,240	0	50	1,640	20	1,170	40	2,100	0
Civilian Labor Force**	3,083,200	2,000	68,400	8,600	130	440	4,800	-20	10,300	110	15,200	-10
Employed	2,883,500	1,220	70,400	8,000	160	430	4,400	-20	9,300	90	13,700	-100
Unemployed	199,700	780	-2,000	580	-30	10	450	-10	1,020	20	1,530	90
Unemployment rate (%)	6.5	0.0	-0.2	6.8	-0.5	-0.2	9.2	-0.1	9.9	0.1	10.1	0.6
	Marathon				Oneida		Portage		Vilas		Wood	
	Mar 2003	1-month change	1-year change	Mar 2003	1-month change	1-year change	Mar 2003	1-month change	Mar 2003	1-month change	Mar 2003	1-month change
Total jobs, all industries*	69,300	700	900	17,600	70	470	32,800	270	7,700	10	43,800	350
Const., min'g & nat. resources	2,400	0	0	1,060	60	50	790	30	710	20	1,310	30
Manufacturing	17,900	100	300	1,370	-20	-260	5,400	-50	380	0	7,700	30
Trade (wholesale & retail)	14,200	200	-100	3,700	10	10	4,500	-30	1,240	0	6,200	20
Transport, Wrhsing, Utilities	2,800	0	-100	400	0	-10	1,820	10	100	0	3,300	40
Financial activities	4,300	0	-100	550	0	10	4,000	-20	300	0	1,130	10
Education & health services	6,700	200	200	3,100	-20	-10	3,000	10	690	0	11,000	60
Leisure & hospitality	4,800	0	0	2,500	30	600	3,600	70	1,550	-40	2,600	60
Info, prof., & other services	8,000	100	400	2,200	10	130	3,700	110	350	0	5,000	60
Government	8,200	100	300	2,700	0	-60	6,000	150	2,400	30	5,500	40
Civilian Labor Force**	78,400	900	2,100	21,700	-80	1,000	39,400	250	11,800	40	42,200	230
Employed	73,500	510	2,300	19,900	10	1,010	36,800	220	10,600	0	39,000	210
Unemployed	5,000	390	-180	1,850	-80	-20	2,600	30	1,250	30	3,200	20
Unemployment rate (%)	6.3	0.4	-0.4	8.5	-0.4	-0.5	6.5	0.0	10.6	0.3	7.6	0.0

*Includes jobs with employers in area. ** Includes labor force participants residing in area. Estimates are NOT seasonally adjusted. Current month estimates are preliminary.
Numbers 2,000 and greater are rounded to nearest 100. Numbers under 2,000 are rounded to nearest 10. Sub-units may not add to totals due to rounding.
Calculations are based on unrounded numbers. Results are rounded.For more information call (608) 242-4885, email dan.barroilhet@dwd.state.wi.us or see http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/lmi